

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

An information disclosure statement is provided herein to submit the references which were listed in the background section of the specification. The oversight in not doing this previously is regretted.

Initially, the indication that claims 16 and 21 are allowed, and that claims 8 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form is appreciatively noted. The reasons for allowance states that is not known in the prior art to use a dielectric to constrain the flow of gas and to detect charge through a dielectric.

The claims which depend from claim 16 should be allowable by virtue of their dependence from claim 16 since they include each of the limitations of claim 16 therein. Therefore, the rejection of claims 17-19 are respectfully traversed for these reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the particle position constraining part is formed of a dielectric material, and claim 1 already stated that the detection was carried out through this dielectric material. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowable by virtue of these amendments which have now been

made. The dependent claims should be allowable for similar reasons.

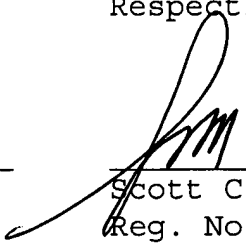
Claim 10 has been amended to specify that the path of the charged particle is defined by a dielectric material and that the charge of the charged particle is detected from within the dielectric. This is further not taught or suggested by Neukermans, as acknowledged by the official action. Accordingly, claim 10 should be allowable along with the claims which depend therefrom.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all of the claims should be in condition allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully switch.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/28/03



Scott C. Harris
Reg. No. 32,030

Fish & Richardson P.C.
PTO Customer Number: **20985**
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 500
San Diego, CA 92122
Telephone: (858) 678-5070
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099
10340095.doc